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**US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District**

**Volume 41, No. 10**

# Yankee Engineer

**July 2006**

## Chief of Engineers visits New England District

Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Chief of Engineers, visited the New England District and held a Town Meeting to discuss the state of the Corps of Engineers on June 27 in the Concord Park Cafeteria.

The first order of business for the Chief was to praise the volunteerism of New England District employees. "Thirty-one people in this District have served in the Global War on Terror abroad and 96 have deployed down to the Gulf," he said. "That's an incred-

ible number for a District of 500 people."

Lt. Gen. Strock said that whether employees have deployed or not they have served by standing in for those who did deploy. "Thank you for all you're doing in the New England area and for what you do for the entire Corps of Engineers and around the world."

The Chief recognized some of the District's employees who have done great things with Chief's coins. The recipients were John Kedzierski, An-

drea Pittman, Ken Paton, Tony Firicano, Rachel Fisher, Paul Marinelli, Paul Cooper, Roger Mathurin, and Ann Marie Harvie. Lt. Gen. Strock also presented Rosemarie Schmidt with her Employee of the Month Award for June. "It's just gratifying to me to see the quality of people we have here in the New England District," he said.

After recognizing employees, the Chief talked about the Corps of Engineers Vision Statement. "I think that

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## District hosts NAD Small Business Conference



Photo by C.J. Allen

**Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Chief of Engineers, presents his keynote address during the Small Business Conference.**

New England District officials hosted the 8th Annual North Atlantic Division Small Business Conference at the World Trade Center on June 28. Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Chief of Engineers, served as the guest speaker at the event. The conference gave small business owners the opportunity to interact with members of the Corps of Engineers and to find out about future work that could be available to them. Over 150 people attended.

"I am here because I am truly interested in small business," said Lt. Gen. Strock during his lunchtime dis-

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Yankee Voices

Lynne Bleakney  
Information Management



## Contact wearers need annual exams

If you wear contact lenses, say doctors at the Mayo Clinic, it's important to get an annual eyes exam. Even if you're experiencing no obvious symptoms, contact lenses could be damaging your eyes. Prolonged wear can deprive the cornea of oxygen, which can stress, warp, or even scar it. Contacts can also encourage allergic reactions and bacterial or fungal infections. Any of these can seriously and permanently damage your vision. So, even if your lenses seem comfortable, make sure you see your optometrist or ophthalmologist at least once a year.

## Correction

Although Frank Delgiudice and Heather Sullivan were part of the reception committee at the Asian America/Pacific Islander celebration, it was actually Peter Hugh, Program Manager, that prepared all of the fine Asian cuisine enjoyed by attendees at the May 17 celebration.

## Sympathy

...to **John Winmill**, Construction/Operations, on the recent passing of his son David.

...to the family of Construction/Operations retiree **Stanley Alexander**, who passed away July 8. He was the first manager of Buffumville Dam in Charlton. Prior to that, he was the manager at Union Village Dam in Vermont. Later on he was promoted to Basin Manager of several projects in the area.

"We grew up around all the damtenders as they were called back then, it was a fun time for all," said his son, Bruce Alexander. "He really enjoyed his job, and the people from the Corps. I know he would like to thank everyone he came in contact with over his long tenure there."

A World War II veteran who served five years Active Duty, Alexander was promoted to Captain before being discharged from Army Corps of Engineers 860th Eng. Bn, Hdqs in 1945.

In addition to his son, Alexander is survived by a daughter, Linda Hoffman.

## Vitamins are not candy

To encourage children to take their vitamins, many manufacturers offer sweetened versions that look just like candy. But Kendra Grande, director of the University of Wyoming Drug Information Center, says parents should opt for these only as a last resort if their children refuse to take regular-looking pills. Parents need to make sure that their children understand the difference between candy and medicine. Otherwise, they could accidentally overdose on vitamins. Or, says Grande, children may come to believe that candy is good for them, just like their vitamins. Parents should administer vitamins to their children rather than let the kids help themselves. Vitamins should also be kept out of their reach, particularly iron-fortified varieties because these pose the greatest risk of overdose. Children's systems cannot process large amounts of iron. (*Ideas Unlimited*)

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# Commander's Corner:

## Looking back on my first year in command

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken  
District Commander



It has now been a year since I stood in Faneuil Hall and took command of this great organization. I would like to take a few moments to reflect on what I have learned using USACE's three Campaign Goals to focus my thoughts.

First, the District has been very active in our support of the **Stability and Support Missions, and Homeland Security Operations**. In the past year, nearly 20 percent of our employees have volunteered to deploy, for some period of time, to support recovery efforts in the Gulf States after last year's horrible hurricane season.

Likewise, we continue to have volunteers deploy to support our nation's **Global War on Terror (GWOT)** effort in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Our volunteers sacrifice much when they answer the nation's call; they endure long periods of separation from their loved ones, they place themselves in harms way, and they rely on those who remain behind to pick up the slack their absence causes here in the District. I thank each and every one of you who have stepped forward when we have asked, but our tasks are not yet complete. Hurricane season is upon us again and the evil forces of worldwide terrorism are not yet defeated. We will continue to need everyone's help. Likewise our construction of Border Patrol Stations in Maine helps the Department of Homeland Security keep evil doers from gaining entry to our great nation.

Second, we have made significant progress towards the development of **Sound Water Resource Solutions** here in New England. New England's history of economic development is tied to the water. From the earliest days of Colonial America, New Englanders made their livings from the sea. Fishermen have set sail from New England's ports for the rich fisheries of George's Banks since the nation's infancy. In Herman Melville's classic book, *Moby Dick*, the Pequot sets sail from New Bedford Harbor. To this day, New Bedford Harbor boasts the largest commercial fishery, by dollar value (over \$206 million annually), in the United States. Likewise, the nation's industrial revolution started here.

Even today, if you look at a map of New England's population density you can trace the path of the region's rivers simply by looking at where the population centers are. **Stewardship of Waterways** is a responsibility we cannot take lightly. While we are lucky to have an abundance of water here, increased use has placed increased pressure on the region resulting in water pollution, loss of wildlife habitat, competition for the water's use, and a need to protect human life and property from the destructive forces of flooding in the many forms it originates from in the North East.

Our Civil Works projects must balance these competing needs in a comprehensive fashion. Similarly, our HTRW program is critical to the remediation and restoration of damage to the environment that occurred in the early days of the industrial revolution. Additionally, our regulatory pro-

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**'Hurricane season is upon us again and the evil forces of worldwide terrorism are not yet defeated. We will continue to need everyone's help.'**

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- Col. Curtis Thalken, District Commander

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gram must also safeguard the region's water resources. Initiatives to develop administrative penalties for noncompliance, with wetland and navigation permits and programs to help the creation of mitigation banks and in-lieu fee programs to offset impacts to wetlands by permit applicants are being explored.

Third, in an era of declining funding for operations and maintenance, we must find ways to enhance life-cycle infrastructure management. Our District's **Military Construction** customers are all unique and in most cases their facility needs will not easily be categorized by the templates currently under development by the Centers of Standardization (COSs). Additionally, the construction environment in the Northeast lends itself to high bids. Therefore it is essential that we spend extra time preparing each package, before it is released for bids. Value engineering, managing customer expectations, using base bids and options, and creative procurement strategies are all essential to ensuring that the bids we receive are actually awardable. While New England's

*(Continued on page 9)*



# Distinguished Civilian Gallery

Joanne Ellis and Reese Morgan are named 2006 inductees

*Two retired members of the New England District family received the honor of induction into the Distinguished Civilian Gallery this year. The late Joanne Ellis, retired Budget Analyst of Programs/Project Management, and Reese Morgan, retired Operations Manager, Naugatuck River Basin were named during the 2006 Founder's Day Celebration at Buffumville Lake in Charlton, Mass., June 23.*

William Scully, Deputy Commander of Programs/Project Management, conducted the brief ceremony.

Joanne T. Ellis began her career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division in 1971 as a clerk-stenographer in the Planning Branch of Engineering Division. In 1975 she moved to the Program Development Office, which eventually became the Programs Office under Project Management. After a series of promotions, Ellis became the Budget Analyst for the Programs/Project Management Division. Ellis' most critical task was the annual budget submission, which included the preparation of an extensive amount of data. In earlier years, Ellis prepared this information either by hand or on a typewriter. The reputation of quality budget submissions that the Corps of New England had with USACE Headquarters was directly attributable to Ellis' hard work. Her knowledge of programs and budgetary requirements greatly enhanced the District's ability to pull the annual program together. Ellis had an outstanding ability to anticipate upcoming work and would organize and prioritize



Ms. Joanne Ellis

her work such that she met the many stringent budgetary deadlines throughout the year while continually meeting other last minute requests.

Project managers continually tapped Ellis for advice and support, and she was often called upon to set up funded work items, creating and processing MIPRs for all reimbursable work, which could total up to 100 actions each quarter. She was recognized as one of the District's senior administrative persons and her expertise was sought out by many throughout the organization.

In addition to her exemplary work for the New England District, Ellis believed strongly in and lived the "NED family" and headed many after work District activities. Over the course of her career she ran the bowling league, the Employ-

ees Welfare Committee, many of the local, regional and national SAME events, Founder's Day and many other events.

Ellis retired from the New England District. She retired on July 3, 2005 with 35 years of federal service and passed away on July 30 of that same year. Members of the Ellis





*Mr. Reese Morgan*

family who accepted the honor in her memory were her sister, Marianne Rosato; brother-in-law, Tom Rosato, Programs/Project Management; niece, Krissy Rosato; and her aunt, Louise Ellis.

Reese Morgan began his career with the Corps of Engineers, New England in 1974 as one of New England Division's original five Park Rangers at Thomaston Dam, Naugatuck River Basin. Some of Morgan's first assignments were to restore burrow areas at the recently constructed projects and to begin managing the properties for recreation and resource management. He was later honored for that work with an award by the Soil Conservation Service.

His outstanding performance as a Park Ranger earned him the position of Operations Manager of the Naugatuck River Basin after just one year. Some of Morgan's significant accomplishments include the Ranger Program, the implementation of fish and wildlife management plans, timber sales, multiple use forest management roads and trail systems, day-use parks, and a general upscale of maintenance at all the projects and structures. In addition to his regular duties, Morgan also participated in many emergency operations over

the years and was commended for his outstanding work during the Blizzard of 1978 recovery efforts.

As the Operations Manager, Morgan's personality, ability to inspire and support his staff, demonstrated initiative and skill in devising new or improved equipment, work methods and procedures has resulted in considerable savings in manpower, time, space, materials, and improved the safety and health of staff and visitors to Corps projects.

One of the most important legacies that Morgan has left the New England District is the people that he has mentored over the years. Through direct interaction and personal example, he has groomed current Operations Managers and Park Managers throughout the District to exemplify Army values, responsible stewardship of the District's resources, and excellent leadership. His presence has left a positive impact that will be felt by the New England District and the Corps of Engineers for many years to come.

Morgan retired on May 3, 2005 with 40 years of faithful federal service. Accepting the honor for Morgan, who was not in attendance, were his co-workers and former protégés Joe Faloretti, Keith Beecher, Bob Hanacek, and Mike Curran.





*Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Larry Rosenberg and Col. Curtis Thalken share a laugh before the awards ceremony.*



*Michael Elliott (left) and Mark McNerney share fishing pointers.*

## District celebrates Founder's Day at Buffumville Lake

New England District employees celebrated 231 years of service to the nation, June 23 at beautiful Buffumville Lake in Charlton, Mass.

This is the first time that the New England District held its Founder's Day Celebration at one of its recreational facilities. Past celebrations have been held in Waltham, Mass., and at Hanscom Air Force Base.

Col. Curtis L. Thalken, New England District Commander, welcomed about 275 people to the celebration and recounted the District's successes during the past year.

"We've had a total of 23 District team members deploy overseas in support of the global war on terrorism and 71 deploy for hurricane federal disaster relieve and recover work in the southern United States," he said. "Our emergency response water team was honored for its exceptional work in support of recovery efforts for hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ophelia and Wilma."

Col. Thalken said that weather experts predict another active hurricane season with potential impacts to New England this year. "We may have our own emergency to deal with or be calling on your volunteer services again

this year to help at our sister District," he said.

Project successes that Col. Thalken mentioned included those in dredging, homeland security, Inter-agency/International, environmental, military, and civil works. "We've had many successes, but there is still a lot of work to do," said Col Thalken. "But today is a time to leave some of those headaches at the office and spend some quality time with our co-workers and our families, away from e-mail, phones and suspenses."

Prior to presenting the day's

awards, Col. Thalken cautioned the Founder's Day attendees on summer safety. "We want everyone to have an enjoyable but safe summer and holiday season."

Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management, named the late Joanne Ellis and Reese Morgan as this year's Distinguished Civilian Gallery Inductees. Story on page 4.

John Kennelly, Chief of Planning, named Mike Tuttle as this year's Planner of the Year. Heather Sullivan, Federal Women's Program Manager,



*Paul Sneeringer takes his children out on Buffumville Lake for a paddleboat ride.*



announced that Tony Firicano will be the 2006 FWP Supervisor of the Year. According to the award, Firicano promotes a work environment that allows for and encourages women and minorities to seek and accept growth opportunities.

Col. Thalken and Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy District Commander, presented several Achievement Medals for Civilian Service. Three recipients received the honors for their outstanding work during the Gulf Region Recovery Effort. Col. Charles O. Smithers, III, Commander of the Louisiana Recovery Field Office signed the awards. Richard Riley, Dave Kratz, and Kevin Branch all received the awards. Kratz and Branch also received Commander's Coins. Kratz and Riley both received an additional certificate of appreciation from Col. Smithers. Scott Michalak received an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for his efforts during the 2004 Hurricane Charley Recovery. Col. Robert M. Carpenter, Jacksonville District Commander, signed the award.

Col. Thalken then distributed the Length of Service Awards with Kim Kaminski-Donaher assisting him. Certificates and pins were given to employees with five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, and 45 years of federal service.

Bob Desista, the 2006 Founder's Day Committee Chair closed the official ceremony with a brief summary of the day's activities which included a catered lunch by Mr. Jack's Catering Service; a fun walk; an animal "touch table" for kids; face painting; a tour of Buffumville Dam; a 3-mile nature walk; horseshoes; volleyball; basketball; canoes, kayaks and PFDs; swimming; fishing and boating; as well as Disc golf. Members of the 2006 Founder's Day Committee are: Jamie Kordack, Santos Lara, Rachael Raposa, Will Pumyea, Bob Russo, Marcos Paiva, Susan Rodkey, Amal Guirguis, Bob Govero, Sally Rigione, Judy Antonellis, Peg Lorenzo, Karen Adams, Frank Delgiudice, Robert Desista, and Ruth Ladd.



*Canoeing was one of the many activities available at Buffumville Lake during Founder's Day.*



*Bud Taylor relaxes during the Founder's Day celebration.*



*Employees compete in a volleyball match.*



*Employees of Mr. Jack's Catering Service fire up the grills for the lunch crowd.*



*Children enjoyed playing on the sand mound on Buffumville Lake's beach.*



*Mary Christopher draws a "tattoo" on one of the young Founder's Day attendees.*

Photo by C.J. Allen



# Chief of Engineers visits New England District

*Continued from page 1*

every group and organization needs a vision," he said.

Lt. Gen. Strock defined the Corps vision as how we want people to see us, how we would like to be viewed by others, and how we would like to view ourselves. He said that sometimes a vision is an ideal state that the Corps may never be able to fully achieve, but it is important to have a sense of what the Corps wants to be.

The Corps Vision is a fairly simple one and not very specific, according to the Chief, but it is appropriate for an organization like the Corps of Engineers.

First and foremost the Corps of Engineers is a U.S. Army organization and its first priority is to defend the nation, said the Chief. The Corps accomplishes this directly in support of military forces, but also through its Civil Works missions.

The Corps of Engineers is one team, said the General. "We're a team of teams and a worldwide team and that is the first thing that should come to mind when you think about the Corps of Engineers," he said. "We are relevant and ready."

Lt. Gen. Strock said that a lot of emphasis is put on the Engineer Force, but in fact the Corps of Engineers is a multi-faceted organization. "We have chemists, economists, lawyers, and real estate appraisers to name a few," he said. "Those of us who are engineers recognize we can't do it without the rest of the skill sets in the organization."

Another important part of the Corps team is its partners. "We work with partners to get the job done," he said. "We don't do anything alone."

The Chief praised New England District's strategic alliances with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and recently Homeland Security. "What you're doing there contributes both to our National Security and because it is a nontraditional customer on the interagency side, you are actually expanding our capability by developing our competencies," he said. "Building our relationship with the Border Patrols is an important one. It serves us well and it serves them well."

The Corps of Engineers is values-based and focuses on the Army's values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor and Integrity, and Per-

sonal Values. The chief said that the Corps is focused on its mission and those it serves. "It's not about us," he said. "It's about the customer and getting the job done."

Lt. Gen. Strock said that the Corps is dedicated to public service and it is vital to the U.S. Army. "We hope that the people we serve recognize that the U.S. Army could not function without its Corps of Engineers."

The Chief had the Strategic Direction brochure reissued to the entire Corps workforce last June and encouraged everyone to read it. Lt. Gen. Strock said that it is customary to publish such guidance to the organization early on in a tour. He said that he declined to do that because he had been with the Corps for about eight years continuously and was comfortable with where the organization was and where it was going as well as the recent conversion of 2012, and war.

"I thought that it was very important to continue to march in the direction that Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers set for us," said the General.

The Chief said that he took some time to think about the document and asked several groups to get together and begin thinking about whether we should change the direction of the Corps in a significant way.

The groups advised the general to focus externally while not abandoning the internal audience. "We took the five broad visionaries of the Corps of Engineers that were reflected in the last version of our mission statement and we used a similar way to depict them, using a spectrum from Peace to War," he said.

His groups came back with three main goals for the Corps of focus on as an organization. The general explained each one in detail to the audience.

Lt. Gen. Strock said that Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander briefed him on the work of the New England District employees and



Photo by Mark McInerney

**Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Chief of Engineers, addresses his New England District employees at the Town Meeting.**



how they are helping the Corps accomplish each of its objectives. "Clearly you understand this and you are linking your operations to our USACE mission," he said.

According to the chief, although the Corps of Engineers must focus externally, it cannot abandon the business of continuous improvement of its process within the organization. The Chief discussed the set of eight enabling capabilities that his groups have identified that will allow employees to effectively accomplish the Corps mission. He emphasized that the Corps was a learning organization and said that he was pleased to see that the New England District was investing in its people with its Emerging Leaders Program. "The learning organization is a critical aspect of what we do," he said.

The General also gave the lessons learned during the Hurricane Katrina Disaster Recovery as an example of how the Corps grows from experience. According to Lt. Gen. Strock, it is absolutely important for the Corps of Engineers to standardize as many procedures as possible for two important reasons.

First, the Corps employees from different districts get deployed to many areas. If procedures are standardized, employees can work together flawlessly.

Second, there is more and more interdependence in the Corps of Engineers, so Districts have to rely on employees from other Districts.

Other subjects that Lt. Gen. Strock discussed were flexible acquisition tools; the Corps of Engineers' support of the Global War on Terror, which is the number one priority of the agency; the Disaster Response Mission; Civil Works Program; Military Program; the Lean Six Sigma, the new business process of the U.S. Army; and the need to do work faster, cheaper, greener and safer.

After a brief question and answer period, Lt. Gen. Strock ended the Town Meeting.

## New England District Commander looks back at his first year

*Continued from page 3*

171 Federal Harbors represent about 19 percent of all federal harbors and our 31 dams account for eight percent of USACE's total, our O&M allocation is only about 3.5 percent of USACE's O&M appropriation and the actual dollar value continues to decline.

Current backlog of work at our dams, hurricane barriers, and the Cape Cod Canal stands at \$7.8 million and is growing by \$450,000 annually. Therefore we must find ways to maintain an appropriate level of service and try to reduce this backlog even as the dollars available continue to decrease.

Real Estate's current lease for services initiative is an example of our efforts to offset losses in funding for maintenance. This initiative ensures that our projects receive the full economic benefit of any leases or easements for use of Corps property. As existing leases are renegotiated in the future, this initia-

tive should help to offset reductions in O&M funding at our projects.

Performance based budgeting criteria have been mandated to ensure that limited federal funds are appropriated to the most deserving projects and it is our responsibility to represent our projects within the process. Therefore we all must work to ensure that the full and correct justification is made to build the case for the region.

The role each and every one of you plays in supporting the nation and the six states of New England is essential. We remain as relevant today as when this nation first started here in New England.

Thank you for all you have done to educate me on the region and our missions here over the last year. New England is a great place to live and NAE is a great place to work.

Essayons!



*Under Col. Curtis Thalken's command, nearly 20 percent of New England District employees volunteered to deploy to the Gulf Region to assist with recovery efforts, such as the one for Hurricane Katrina.*

# District hosts NAD Small Business Conference

*Continued from page 1*

cussion. "I'm interested because it is in the public interest that we nurture and create opportunities for small business. It is the right thing to do. We're here to communicate, we're here to identify problems and develop solutions on how we can better serve the nation together," he said.

Lt. Gen. Strock explained the many missions of the Corps of Engineers for the benefit of those who have not worked with the agency. He also shared the execution opportunities in Military Construction (MILCON), Civil Works (particularly in Flood Damage Reduction and Navigation), Engineering Services, Operations, Global War on Terror, Base Realignment and Closure, and Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy. "Small businesses are responsible for 60 to 80 percent of the new jobs that we have created over the past year," he said. "Small business truly is big business and it is vital business to the nation."

The Chief of Engineers talked about the Corps Private Sector Partnerships. "We contract 100 percent of our construction and we simply provide oversight and management of that construction," he said. "We also contract 50 percent of our Architect/Engineer work."

MILCON Transformation is a challenging opportunity for small businesses, according to Lt. Gen. Strock. "The Army, like all services is transforming now and it is really changing," he said, explaining that the amount of fighting brigades and reserves is increasing and that facilities will have to be constructed to support the Soldiers and in some cases they need to be completed in a short amount of time. "We are looking for processes that reduce the variability of the outcome," he said. "We cannot afford to have uncertain outcomes in our construction, and we do that by building proven facilities with proven providers."

The Global War on Terror has lasted longer than World



*Bill Scully, New England District's Deputy for Programs and Project Management talks with Lt. Gen. Carl Strock during the small business conference.*

Photos by C.J. Allen



*Small businesses talk to prime contractors and government agencies during the Small Business Fair.*

War II, according to Lt. Gen. Strock. During that time the Corps of Engineers has been building schools and other facilities to meet the immediate needs of the Iraqi and Afghani people. The General told the audience that Corps employees go to Iraq willingly, with some volunteering for two and three tours. "They share the same hardships and dangers that our Soldiers do," he said. "The Corps is making a difference," he said. "We are accomplishing our objectives on time and getting things done."

In the United States the Corps is providing support for disaster response and recovery. "We have been able to balance our work on the War on Terror and Emergency Response," said Lt. Gen. Strock.

When provided disaster recovery support, the Corps of Engineers works to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "We check our castles at the door and become part of FEMA just like all federal agencies do in times of disaster," he said.

The Corps also supports disaster recovery by working with the Department of Defense. This was an important aspect of the Corps participation in response to hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma in the Gulf Coast, according to the general.

Concluding his remarks, Lt. Gen. Strock challenged small businesses to share the Corps Vision – One Team Relevant, Ready, Responsible, and Reliable; to embrace the Corps Goals – better, faster, cheaper, greener, and safer. "Quality is nonnegotiable," he warned. "We've got to deliver the quality and as quickly as we can."

The Chief of Engineers asked the audience to provide the Corps with innovative solutions; team with other small businesses, and seek mentor-protégé opportunities.

During the Small Business Conference, Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander, mirrored Lt. Gen. Strock's message that the Corps of Engineers wants to work with small business. "The United States Army Corps





*Dick Carlson, New England District's Chief of Construction, addresses a question during the dialogue session.*

of Engineers support to the small business program is unwavering and we try to improve every day," he said. "And that is why we are here – to get the word out about what is available and to meet one-on-one."

"Lt. Gen. Strock's presence at this conference shows how much the Corps supports Small Business," said Maj. Gen. William Grisoli, North Atlantic Division Commander.

The Division Commander spoke about the North Atlantic Division and the success stories that it has had with small business. He said that NAD is a full spectrum Division and went on to discuss its missions and the many opportunities for small businesses.

A small business opportunity fair, which allowed members of small business to network with Corps of Engineers representatives and prime contractors, followed the opening remarks.

Two concurrent breakout sessions were next on the agenda. The session entitled "Mentor-Protégé Program" was hosted by panel members Mark Otis of the New England District; Simone Shields (Mentor) of Weston Solutions and Robert Delhume of Charter Environmental (Protégé). Panel members presented an overview of the program and what makes a successful Mentor-Protégé relationship. The other breakout session, "Responding to Federal Opportunities," went over various contracting vehicles, changes in approach to military design and qualification statements. Arthur Connolly, Chief of Engineering for the New York District discussed Standard Form 330 (Architect-Engineer Qualification Form); Fred Grant, Chief, Reserve Support Branch for Louisville District talked about Design and Build; Bill Hubbard, Chief of Evaluation Branch for the New England District made a presentation of Professional Services; and Lisa Bobotas from the Center of Standardization for Norfolk District talked about Military Construction Transformation.

Following Lt. Gen. Strock's lunchtime presentation,



*Small business contractors ask questions during the Small Business Conference.*

Charles E. Summers, Jr., U.S. Small Business Administration, Regional Administrator spoke to the audience.

Next, Small Business attendees participated in a dialogue session entitled "Market Conditions, Lessening Risk and Encouraging Competition."

Max Kidalov, Counsel, U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship (Chaired by Senator Olympia J. Snowe of Maine) also made a presentation.

District Commanders from the North Atlantic Division concluded the small business conference by discussing their Districts' Fiscal Year 2006 and Fiscal Year 2007 Programs. The presenters were Col. Yvonne Prettyman-Beck, Norfolk District; Col. Robert Davis, Jr., Baltimore District; Lt. Col. Robert J. Ruch, Philadelphia District; Col. Richard Polo, New York District; and Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy Commander, New England District.

Maj. Gen. Grisoli thanked all of the Small Business participants for attending the conference and also thanked Eva Marie D'Antuono, the New England District's Deputy for Small Business for organizing the event.



*Maj. Gen. William Grisoli speaks with an attendee at the Small Business Conference.*

## Youth Pioneer Trek at Barre Falls Dam

Story and photos by Delia Vogel  
Barre Falls Dam



*Teenagers dress in period costume during the Pioneer Trek.*

*One hundred ten teenagers, accompanied by approximately 40 adults, from a group of ten churches in the Boston/Worcester area of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints participated in a two and one-half day Pioneer Trek through Barre Falls Dam.*

Each year the church sponsors a major summer event for their teenagers. This year's theme was a pioneer trek that simulated the journey of the early church pioneers to Salt Lake City, Utah. This year's event was twofold – to teach the teenagers of the hardships the pioneers endured and to teach them about overcoming obstacles. Prior to the event, replicas of the hand-pulled carts used in the original journey were built, period costumes were either bought or hand sewn, and a pioneer or relative from the past was chosen to honor on the journey.

The church was established by Joseph Smith in 1830 and went through a cycle of migration, persecution, and expulsion that culminated in 7,000 saints abandoning their homes in Nauvoo, Illinois in the bitterly cold winter of 1846.

Driven from their homes by persecution a year after their founding father Joseph Smith and his son were murdered, the pioneers journeyed over 1,000 miles along the Rocky Mountains in extremely harsh conditions, many using hand-pulled carts.

Midway through the journey, Army re-

cruited the men to fight the Spanish American War. This left the old men and women to complete the journey to Salt Lake City.

The group started the ten-mile hike on the 6th of July in Templeton with the teen males pulling the carts. They camped on Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) land in Hubbardston then hiked to Barre Falls Dam where the females took over pulling the carts until they arrived at camp in a field between Dikes 1 and 2. They had a fiddle concert after they set up camp for the night. The journey ended at Rutland State Park where their families met them with a large cookout.

In lieu of paying the Special User Permit Fee, adults volunteered to perform litter removal along the hike. This amounted to 40 hours of volunteer services valued at \$721.60 not including the cost of trash removal.

Massachusetts DCR and Corps rangers partnered to provide traffic control. MDCR accompanied the group from beginning to end, and Barre Falls Dam rangers accompanied them across the dam to the dikes.



*Members of the Church of Jesus Christ for Latter-Day Saints make their way through Barre Falls Dam as part of their Pioneer Trek.*





Photos by Mark McInerney

*The CURRITUCK sucks up material from Aunt Lydia's Cove, then moves to the authorized disposal site before it opens its hull and deposits the material.*

## Corps of Engineers dredge CURRITUCK dredges New England District project

Col. Curtis Thalken, District Commander, joined Congressman William Dellahunt on a tour of the Corps of Engineers dredge CURRITUCK, while it was in New England performing dredging in Chatham, Mass., on June 6.

The vessel, which is stationed in North Carolina, spent 15 days in Massachusetts waters while it performed maintenance dredging an 8-foot deep, 100-foot wide entrance channel at Aunt Lydia's Cove.

The CURRITUCK moved about 3,000 cubic yards of sand each day from shoals in federal navigation projects throughout the east coast to the surf zone of nearby beaches.

According to the Wilmington District, the vessel was built in 1974 as a self-propelled, split hull barge and began its career working in tandem with a sidecasting dredge. In 1977 the CURRITUCK was converted into a self-contained dredge and became the first split hull dredge to operate in the United States.



*Col. Curtis Thalken and Congressman William Dellahunt watch the CURRITUCK at work.*

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## Trail Committee, District host National Trail Day Event

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by Park Ranger Tom Chamberland  
Westville Lake

*The Grand Trunk Trail Committee, in partnership with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and American Hiking Society hosted a National Trail Day Event at Westville Lake Park on Saturday June 3. Dozens of people braved the torrential downpours that lasted throughout the day to take part in the event.*

This year's theme was "explore your outdoors." All area residents were invited to discover local trails at this event. In addition to the trail committees of Southbridge and Sturbridge, invited organizations included Southbridge Trail Committee, Grand Trunk trail committee, Quinebaug rail trail committee, the local Waste Reduction Committee and the New England District.

Each organization had a display and information on their trails and organization. The New England District had video presentations on their cooperative partnerships and the status of local trails around Westville Lake.

Two hikes took place that day. The first hike began at the West St. School parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and continued to the West St. School trail. Park Ranger Tom Chamberland led the one-mile, one hour long hike. Hikers traveled the trail loop from the school to the toe of Westville Lake

Dam and back. A portion of this hike was fully accessible. The construction of this trail has been a partnership between the Corps, West St. School, the town of Southbridge, the Student Conservation Association, and local Boy Scouts.

The second hike, also led by Chamberland, started at the picnic shelter at Westville Park at 1:30 p.m., and tour the under construction portion of Grant Trunk trail up to the Ed Calcutt Bridge and return. Hikers discovered what the future holds for this major east/west trail that has the potential to link communities from Brimfield through Webster, connecting to the Quinebaug rail trail in Southbridge. The 2-mile hike and took about two hours. As this trail is under construction, the surface was rough and uneven.

Despite Mother Nature's best efforts to dampen the spirits of the hikers and the event promoters, the event was a success and will return next year.



Photos by Mark McInerney

*Park Ranger Tom Chamberland walks with participants during the National Trail Event.*



# How our presidents have celebrated July 4th

James Heintze, a librarian at American University, has researched the different ways in which presidents have celebrated Independence Day throughout the years.

1778 – General George Washington (prior to becoming president) instructed his troops in Princeton, N.J., to fire their cannons in sequence. Each soldier was also given a double ration of rum to celebrate the nation's second birthday.

1801 – Thomas Jefferson hosted the first 4th of July party at the White House, opening its doors to local residents.

1828 – A military band played "Hail to the Chief" for John Quincy Adams, the first president to hear the song.

1848 – James Polk participated in the laying of the cornerstone of the Washington Monument.

1850 – Zachary Taylor celebrated the 4th by eating a bowl of cherries and milk. He became ill and died a few days later; historians attributed his death to food poisoning.

1851 – Millard Fillmore attended a ceremony to lay the cornerstone of the new Capitol.

1861 – Abraham Lincoln raised an American flag on a 100-foot staff on the lawn of the Treasury Department.

1936 – Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home, and gave a speech honoring the former president.

1951 – Harry Truman spoke at the Washington Monument to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

1963 – John F. Kennedy chose 31 people to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

1971 – Richard Nixon witnessed the certification of the 26th Amendment to the Constitution, which set the voting age in national elections at 18.

1976 – For the country's bicentennial, Gerald Ford visited Valley Forge, Pa.; recited the "Pledge of Allegiance" in Philadelphia; and sailed to New York City on the USS Forrestal to view a parade of tall ships.

1982 – Ronald Reagan welcomed space shuttle, Columbia, at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

1993 – Bill Clinton attended a ringing of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.

2003 – George W. Bush visited Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of powered flight by the Wright brothers.



## Celebrating Founder's Day in the Field

by Sue Loubier  
Westover Resident Office

*While Concord Corps employees were enjoying Founders Day at Buffumville Lake on June 23, current and retired staff members of the Westover Resident Office, their wives and grandchildren enjoyed a Founders Day picnic at the home of Randy and Gail Sujat. Past and present Westover Resident Office employees who attended were: (back row from left to right): Retiree Charlie Miller, Ray Goff, Retiree Al Laraway, Randy Sujat, Retiree Charlie Marney, Jeff Perchak and Darrell Moore. (front row from left to right): Retiree Pat Allen, Sue Loubier, Retiree Andre Janet.*

## Dredging up the past . . .



*Col. Brian Osterndorf, New England District Commander, waits patiently to be dunked during the Founder's Day celebration on June 23, 2000. Col. Osterndorf and his senior staff all volunteered to be "targets" for a "Dunk Your Boss" fundraiser while beating the scorching heat of the day at the same time.*

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